DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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FROM: SAN SALVADOR | CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

CASE FINS PINT ES

SUBJECT: Disappearance of John Sullivan

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLASSIFIED SAN SALVADOR

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1. In my conversation with President Duarte on January 17, I introduced the subject of the disappearance of the journalist John Sullivan. Other Embassy officers have raised the subject repeatedly at high levels of the armed forces since we heard he was missing. I stated, for Duarte's benefit all we know and all that we had done to try to establish the whereabouts of Sullivan.

2. I explained to Duarte that the Secretary intended to call Duarte about the case and ~~xhe~~ therefore I wanted to give him as complete an understanding as possible of the problem.

3. Duarte already knew a considerable amount about the case but said that investigative authorities had run up against a blank wall. The man had disappeared from his hotel room and no witnesses could be found. I requested that Duarte communicate again with the police and asked for

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special efforts to try to find Mr. Sullivan. Duarte agreed to do this immediately.

4. At mid-day on Saturday, January 17, I telephoned Mrs. Sullivan to explain to her that I had discussed the disappearance of her son with the President of El Salvador and that he had promised full cooperation. I had an extended conversation with Mrs. Sullivan in which I expressed sympathy and the willingness of the Embassy to do everything in its power to assist in the search. Mrs. Sullivan had some questions about dates that I could not answer and therefore I have had Consul Lasbury telephone her in order to fill her in on all the details we have on the case.

WHITE